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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK
Telephone 081 771 2904, Fax 081 653 0322

Honorary President:
Lord Avebury
Honorary Treasurer:
Tom Soper
Organising Secretary:
Carmel Budiardjo

To East Timor solidarity groups everywhere
4 March 1992

Joint action to protest against the trials of East Timorese

1. The Indonesian Attorney-General has announced that 13 East Timorese will be tried in the aftermath of the Santa Cruz massacre and the 19 November demonstration in Jakarta. Four will be tried for subversion – two in Dili and two in Jakarta. Nine will be tried under the Criminal Code "for inciting hatred against the government" – six in Dili and three in Jakarta.

2. The four to be charged with subversion are:
Gregorio da Cunha Saldanha (tried in Dili)
Francisco Miranda Branco (tried in Dili)
Fernando de Araujo (arrested in Bali, tried in Jakarta)
Joao Freitas da Camara (tried in Jakarta).
Five of the six to be charged in Dili under the 'hatred' [illegible]
Bonifacio Magno
Juvencio de Jesus Martins
Jacinto das Neves Raimundo Alves
Filomeno da Silva Ferreira
Carlos dos Santo Lemos.
The identities of the defendants on 'hatred' charge in Jakarta are not known.

3. The trial of Saldanha is due to commence on Saturday, 14 March. Branco's trial may start soon after.

4. We propose a world-wide joint action any time from Thursday 19 March to Saturday 21 March, to condemn the trials and demand that those being tried should be unconditionally released.
Regarding the trials, the following demands can be made:
- the trials should be open to international observers and diplomats in Jakarta should insist on attending the trials;
- the defendants should be defended by lawyers of their own choice and given all the facilities for a fair trial;
- the ban on foreign journalists visiting East Timor should be lifted immediately to enable journalists to attend and report on the trials.

5. We suggest certain actions. Each group can work out its own programme. Actions should include:
- A demonstration or vigil outside the Indonesian embassy or other Indonesian office.
- A statement of protest to Indonesia and demands to your own government. Consider collecting signatures from NGOs in your own country. The statement should be made public on the day of protest and presented to the government and to the Indonesian embassy. (Each group can draft its own statement, to avoid the complications of trying to draft a joint world statement.)
- Other activities involving MPs, personalities etc, as deemed suitable by each group. This could include asking questions in Parliament, tabling motions, letters to the press, etc.
- As much press publicity as possible.

6. As the initiators of this action, we are willing to coordinate in the sense of centralising information about actions in different countries and disseminating plans and results through E-mail or fax.

7. Please let us know by Saturday whether 1) you agree, 2) the date is suitable and 3) you have proposals to add to the above. If enough groups take part, we will announce next week that the action will go ahead.